

A TRUE  
DECLARATION  
OF

The present proceedings of the

ARMY.

WITH

Their REASONS and RESOLUTIONS against Disbanding, until satisfaction be given in relation to their grievances, and their due expectations answered in the establishment of JUSTICE, TRUTH, and PEACE, within these Kingdomes.

BEING

The RESULTS of a late COUNCELL of VVARRE; wherein is manifested the ground and end of their present undertakings.

VVhereunto is annexed severall Reasons, why the Souldiers of the Army cast out their dissenting Officers

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Published by Command, for the satisfaction of the Kingdome. June 12  
1647.

# PROCLAMATION

The people of the United States

# ARMY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
DOES hereby proclaim that the  
United States Army is now  
in the hands of the  
people of the United States  
and that the United States  
Army is now the property  
of the people of the United States

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Published by Command for the Distribution of the Department June 12  
1877

# DECLARATION

OF

The present proceedings of the ARMY. with their reasons against disbanding, untill satisfaction in relation to their grievances be fully given; and their due expectations answered, both by vindication and reparation for the present, and protection for the future against the like illegal practises.

**W**Hereas upon the Petition intended and agreed upon in the Army, March last, to have been presented to the Generall, for the obtaining onely of our due and necessary concerns as Souldiers: The Honourable House of Commons, being unseasonably prepossessed with a copy thereof, and as by the sequel we suppose, with some strange misrepresentations of the carriage and intentions of the same; was induced to send downe an Ordinance to suppress the Petition: And within two or three dayes after, upon further misinformation and scandalous suggestions of the like, or worse nature, and by the indirect practise of some malicious and mischievous persons, as we suppose, surprizing, or otherwise abusing the Parliament; a Declaration was published in the name of both Houses, highly censuring the said Petition; and declaring the said Petitioners if they should proceed thereupon, no lesse then enemies to the State, and disturbers of the publique peace.

And whereas at the same time, and since, diverse eminent Officers of the Army have been brought into question and trouble about the said Petition; whereby both they and the rest are disabled or discouraged for the time from farther acting or appearing therein on the Souldiers behalfe. And whereas by the foresaid proceedings, and the effects thereof, the Souldiers of this Armie finding themselves so stopt in their due and regular way of making knowne their grievances and desires to and by their Offi-

cers, were inforced into an unusual, (but in that case necessary) way of correspondence and agreement amongst themselves, to chuse out of the severall Troupes and Companies severall men, and those out of their whole number, to chuse two or more for each Regiment, to act in the names and behalfe of the whole Souldiery of the respective Troupes and Companies, in the prosecution of their Rights and Desires in the said Petition; as also of their due vindication and fighting in reference to the aforesaid proceedings upon and against the same; who have accordingly acted and done many things to those ends, which the Souldiery do own and approve as their own acts: And whereas afterwards upon the sending down Maior Generall Skippon, and those other officers of the Army, that were Members of the House of Commons, to quiet distempers in the Army, fresh hopes being conceived of having our grievances and desires admitted again to be made known and considered in a regular way, and without such misrepresentations as formerly: The Officers and Souldiers of the Army did again (except some few dissenting Officers) ioyn in a representation of their common grievances: And the Officers (except as before) did agree upon a narrative account of the grounds, rise, and growth of the contents in the Army, and their proceedings in relation thereunto, with an overture of the best expedients to remove or satisfy the same, both which were presented to the Members of the House, and from them reported to the house. And whereas the Parliament having thereupon voted and ordered some particulars towards satisfaction of some of our grievances, have since proceeded to certain resolutions of suddaine disbanding the Army by pieces, which resolution being taken and to be executed before full or equall satisfaction given to the whole Army in many of the grievances; before effectuall performance of that satisfaction in part, which the precedent Votes seems to promise as to some of the grievances; before any consideration at all of some others most materiall, as by the results, of a generall Councell of VVarre, on Saturday last it was in generall declared; and now more fully demonstrated in particulars by a representation thereof, agreed upon by us all: we cannot but looke upon the said resolution of disbanding us in such a manner, as proceeding from the same malicious, and mischeivous principles and

and intentions, indirect practices of the same persons, abusing the Parliament and us, as the former proceedings against us before mentioned did, and not without cruell, bloody purposes (as some of them have not shuck to declare, or intimate.) after the body of the Army shall be dis-banded, or the Souldiers devied from their Officers, then to question, proceed against, & execute ther malicious intentions upon all such particular Officers and Souldiers in the Army, as had appeared to act in the premises in behalfe of the Army: whereas upon the late petition to the Generall, from the Agitators, in behalfe of the Souldiery, grounded upon the preceding considerations, relating to the said resolutions of dis-banding; the generall Councell of VVar to prevent the danger and inconvenience of those disturbances of tumultuous actings, with the dis-satisfaction, and jealousies thereupon also grounded; were like suddenly to have produced in the Army; did advise the Generall first to contract the quarters of the Army; and then to draw the same to an orderly rendezvous, for satisfaction of all, and that his Excellency would immediatly send up to move the Parliament to suspend any present proceeding on the said resolution of dis-banding, to resume the consideration of the grievances & desires sent up from the Army, and yet not to disband it in peeces, before iust and equall satisfaction be given to the whole, and whereas some of the Regiments appointed for dis-banding, upon notice hereof withdrawing themselves from the quarters adioyning to the appointed rendezvous, & drawing towards the head-quarters and the rest contracting their quarters by order according to the advice of the said Councell of VVarre. In testimony whereof, that the VVe the Officers & Souldiers of severall Regiments are now met at a generall rendezvous, & the Regiments appointed, as aforesaid to be dis-banded, have not appeared, nor can appear, but rather resolved not to appear at their severall rendezvous appointed for their dis-banding; & divers other things have been done by severall other parts, or members of the Army, necessarily relating to the good contentment of the whole, in these affaires: now forasmuch as we know not how far the malice, insultrie, & tirany, will-principles, of our enemies which have already prevailed so far, as to abuse the Parliament & Army, as is afore-mentioned in the past proceedings against the Army, may

farther prevaile to the danger or prejudice of our selves, or any Officers, or Souldiers of the Army, that have appeared to act any thing in behalfe of the Army, or how far the same may farther prevaile to the danger or prejudice of the Kingdome, in raising a new VVarre, or otherwise.

therefore for the better prevention of all such dangers, prejudices, or other inconveniences that may ensue, and with all for the better satisfaction to the Parliament and kingdome, concerning our desires of conforming to the authority of the one, and providing for the good and quiet of the other, in the present affaire of dis-banding, and for a more assured way whereby that affaire may come to certaine issue; wee humbly implore that continued presence and assistance of God the righteous Iudge of all.

WVee the Officers and Souldiers of this Army doe hereby declare, agree, and promise to and with each other, and to and with the Parliament and Kingdome as followeth.

I. That we shall cheerfully and readily disband, when thereunto required by the Parliament, or else shall many of us be willing if desired, to further service, either in England or Ireland, having first such satisfaction in relation to the grievances and desires heretofore presented, and such security that wee our selves when dis-banded, and in the condition of private men, or other the free-borne people of England to whom the consequence of the case doth equally extend, shall not remaine subject to the like oppression, iniury, or abuse, as in the premises hath beene attempted and put upon us while an Army; by the same mens continuance in the same credit and power, especially if as our Judges, who have in those past proceedings against the Army so farre prevailed to abuse the Parliament and us, and to indanger the Kingdome: And also such security, that wee our selves, or any members of this Army, or others who have appeared to act any thing in behalfe of the Army, in relation to the premises before recited, shall not after disbanding be any way questioned, prosecuted, troubled, or prejudiced, for any thing so acted, or for the entering into, or necessary prosecution of this present agreement; wee say, having first such satisfaction and securities in these things as shall be agreed unto by a Councell, to consist of those generall Officers of the Army, who have

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concurrent in the premises, with two Commission Officers, and two Souldiers to be chosen by each Regiment, who hath concurred, or shall concur with us in the premises, and in this agreement, or by the maior part of such of them who shall meeete in Councell for that purpose, when they shall be thereunto called by the Generall.

2. That without such satisfaction and securitie as aforesaid, we shall not willingly dis-band, or divide, or suffer our selves to be dis-banded: And whereas we find many strange things suggested, or suspected, to our great prejudice, concerning dangerous Principles, interests, and delignes in this Army, as to the overthrow of Magistracy, the suppressing or hindering of Presbyterie, the establishing of Independent government, or upholding of a generall Licentiousnesse, under pretence of Liberty of Conscience; and many such things: VVe shall very shortly tender to the Parliament a Vindication of the Army from all such scandals, to cleare our Principles in relation thereunto: And in the meane time, we do disavow and disclaime all purpose or Designe in our late or present proceedings, to advance or insist upon any such interest, neither would we, if we might and could set up any one particular Party or interest in the Kingdome, though imagined never so much our own; but should much rather studie to provide for (as far as may be within our Sphere or Power) such an establishment of common and equal Right, Freedome, and Safety to the whole; as all might equally partake of; that do not by denying the same to others, or otherwise, render themselves incapable of it.

#### SEVERALL REASONS VVHY VVEE SOULDIER'S CAST out our dissenting Officers.

**F**irst, their continuance among us must needs make them privie to our actions, and their actings being opposite to our iust proceedings, must needs be inconsistent to our welfare.

Secondly, their thus acting is contrary to the rules of Marshall discipline.

Thirdly, they have disorted from the principles by which wee have alwaies acted, (viz.) the maintaing of our iust rights and priviledges.

Fourthly



Fourthly, by their actions they lay open the Parliament to mis-apprehensions; they affirming to doe iustice in the behalfe of all men: yet notwithstanding our rule hath been nothing but iustice; they oppose us, pretending therein to serve the Parliament; and farther representing us to them as in a false Glasse, have caused the Parliament to misapprehend us, and so to render themselves enemies to both.

Fifthly, their endeavours to render us divided, by promoting principles which (if effected) inevitably tend to our destruction.

Sixthly, their not joyning with us, in the defense of our just rights, according to our first principles; doth render them either to be swayd by slavish feare, or sinister respects.

Seventhly, the seperating of the knowne corrupted members from us, may for the future hinder the progresse of some so corrupted, not yet discovered, and conduce to the peace and wellbeing of the Army.

Edward Sexby. [Lieut. Generall]

John Taylor. [Regiment]

VVilliam Allen. [Lieut. Generall]

Samuel VVhiting. [Regiment]

Thomas Shepherd. [Comd. Generall]

VVill. Hammond. [Regiment]

Henry Githinges. [Colonell Shefelds]

Edward Star. [Regiment]

VVilliam Joanes. [Colonell Fleetwoods]

John Casby. [Regiment]

John Braman. [Colonell Rich his]

Richard williams. [Regiment]

John Thust. [Colonell Hamond his]

VVilliam Bridgman. [Regiment]

Robert Mafon. [Colonell VValler his]

Henry Anderton. [Regiment]

Nicholas Andrewes. [Colonell Harlow his]

Ralph Prouers. [Regiment]

Harbert Feild. [Colonell Lilburne his]

Thomas Halston. [Regiment]